

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following rewritten claims in clean form. Applicant includes herewith an Attachment for Claim Amendments showing a marked up version of each amended claim.

A<sub>2</sub> ~~1.~~ (Amended) A part attachable to a substrate via a welding process, comprised of aluminum or an aluminum alloy, wherein a surface of the part to be welded to the substrate is, after optionally cleansing with an etchant, treated with a non-phosphating acidic solution containing titanium fluoride acid, said acidic solution serving to both activate and passivate the part, thereby providing a titanium containing material on the part which is capable of lowering the contact resistance between the part and the substrate during a welding process.

~~Please cancel Claims 2-3.~~

A<sub>3</sub> ~~9.~~ (Amended) A method of producing a weldable aluminum part having titanium dispersed along a surface thereof, said method comprising the steps of:  
providing a combined activating and passivating acidic solution containing at least about 5.0% titanium fluoride acid; and  
contacting the weldable aluminum part with the acidic solution for a sufficient period of time to permit the application of titanium along a surface of the part.

~~Please cancel Claim 10.~~

~~Please add the following new claims.~~

16. (New) The part according to Claim 1 wherein said acidic solution contains between about 5.0% to about 20.0% titanium fluoride acid.

17. (New) The part according to Claim 1 wherein said acidic solution has a free acid count of between about 6.1 to about 18.3.

18. (New) The method according to Claim 9 wherein said acidic solution contains between about 5.0% to about 20.0% titanium fluoride acid.

19. (New) The method according to Claim 9 wherein said acidic solution has a free acid count of between about 6.1 to about 18.3.

#### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 are now pending in the application. Minor amendments have been made to the specification and claims to simply overcome the objections to the specification and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

#### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.